



Issue #12 – June 2013

# Connections

News for Health Care Providers and Professionals  
Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE)  
Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)

## It's Here! The ILHIE Health IT Consumer Education Toolkit



**Finally, an easily understood resource for health care providers to learn more about health IT and to share with their patients.**

The ILHIE Consumer Education Toolkit was developed with input and guidance from the ILHIE Consumer Education Work Group and the ILHIE Advisory Committee, consisting of some of the foremost leaders in health IT. It was developed to provide health care professionals with simple, informative materials to share with

their patients to better understand health IT, empower them to connect electronically and to be more proactive with their health.

Please spread the word by distributing this announcement and Toolkit link to those who will benefit from this important information. **Enthusiasm is contagious.**

[Click here](#) to access the Toolkit.

## HIE Proponents Reach Out to Illinois Legislators

### HIE Advocacy Day in Springfield

On May 14th, health information professionals from across the state gathered to learn more about the HIE efforts in Illinois, to discuss the challenges of HIE from the health care provider perspective and to increase their awareness of legislative strategies to address privacy and security concerns. The following day was a day of “advocacy in action” as participants met with legislators in their offices to share information about their respective organizations and their expertise in the field of health information technology. The participants in the annual HIE Advocacy event represent a great cross-section of health care organizations and are an important component of strengthening the State’s health IT infrastructure.



The ILHIE wishes to thank ILHIMA and GCCHIMSS for their leadership in sponsoring, coordinating and leading the HIE advocacy efforts in Illinois.

#### For more information:

To learn more about health information exchange in Illinois visit [HIE.Illinois.gov](http://HIE.Illinois.gov)

To learn more about what is happening nationally visit [HealthIT.gov](http://HealthIT.gov)

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## Why Join the ILHIE?

### Improve Patient Care, Save Time and Lower Costs



In the April issue of Connections we reviewed a number of reasons providers want to connect to the ILHIE including: adapting to the electronic age, and improving the speed, efficiency and overall quality of patient care. In addition to these compelling reasons, see below for several more:

### Achieve Meaningful Use

Connecting to the ILHIE today will help providers to achieve Stage 2 meaningful use criteria beginning in 2014. Many of the core objectives have a clear focus on health information exchange. Also

be well prepared for Stage 3 meaningful use in 2016, as criteria will likely rely even more on health information exchange. [Click here](#) for details.

### Qualify for Federal Incentives

The Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs provide incentive payments to eligible professionals (between \$43,000 - \$63,000) and hospitals (up to \$2 million) as they adopt, implement, upgrade and demonstrate meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology.

For more information visit: [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) and [Meaningful Use Incentive Payment Program](#).

### Privacy & Security

The ILHIE Authority is responsible for ensuring the privacy and security of patient records

- Electronic Health Records are protected with passwords, encryption, and other technical safeguards to make sure that only the right people have access to information.
- In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set forth standards for protecting the privacy and security of certain health information

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## Join us in Welcoming the Following Organizations Currently Connecting to the ILHIE

The ILHIE is excited to announce that the following organizations are connecting to our secure, statewide network. We encourage you to join them soon to improve patient care, save time and lower costs.

Central Illinois Health Information Exchange  
Southern Illinois Health Information Exchange

Carlinville Area Hospital  
Clay County Hospital  
Community Memorial  
Culbertson Memorial Hospital  
Fairfield Memorial Hospital  
Franklin Hospital  
Gibson Area Hospital  
Hamilton Memorial Hospital  
Hardin County General Hospital  
Heartland Health Outreach  
Kewanee Hospital  
Mason District Hospital  
Memorial Hospital  
Near North Health Service Corporation  
Paris Community Hospital  
PCC Wellness  
Salem Township Hospital  
Sparta Community Hospital  
Washington County Hospital



## For More Information About Connecting to the ILHIE

Contact Raul Recarey, Executive Director of the ILHIE Authority at [raul.recarey@illinois.gov](mailto:raul.recarey@illinois.gov) or 312-814-3534.

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## Illinois is Modernizing the Mental Health Confidentiality Act

The Illinois General Assembly voted unanimously to modernize the Illinois mental health confidentiality act to give individuals receiving mental health services the right to send their electronic health information via the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE). Previously, mental health information could only be exchanged in a paper-based environment and sent by fax or U.S. mail.

This was a decisive step in a policy process that has taken place over several years to ensure that the ILHIE and regional HIEs can facilitate care coordination involving both medical and mental health services in Illinois, while balancing patient choice and privacy.

The amended law gives individuals the choice to share their mental health information via the HIE. If the patient “opts out” they always retain the right to participate in the ILHIE at a later date. When an individual opts-out of the HIE, mental health information can still be sent by fax or U.S. mail.

Hundreds of stakeholders throughout Illinois participated in the development of this law. We thank them for their contributions to allow electronic exchange of mental health information in Illinois. In particular: the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois, Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependence Association, Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Illinois College of Emergency Physicians, Illinois Hospital Association, Illinois Psychiatric Association, Illinois Primary Health Care Association, Illinois State Medical Society, and National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter.

## Save the-Date for the ILHIE Patient Consent Workshop

**Wednesday, June 26, 2013, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Chicago, Springfield, Webinar**

Now that the Illinois legislature has acted in support of patient choice in data sharing and modernizing the mental health confidentiality act, the ILHIE Authority has begun work to develop the privacy, security, and consent policies that will govern the exchange of patient data through the ILHIE and regional HIE participants in the ILHIE.



The ILHIE Authority Data Security & Privacy Committee and the Regional HIE Work Group are co-sponsoring a Patient Consent Management Workshop. The workshop will serve as the kick-off for the public engagement process to gather input and recommendations from stakeholders and subject matter experts on how to operationalize consent management policies for HIEs in Illinois. Presentations will be made on the process, the new legislation and the choices Illinois patients now have. Attendees will be invited to join work groups. An invitation will be available the week of June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**For further information on the workshop please contact Krysta Heaney, Policy Analyst at 312-814-9709 or [krysta.heaney@illinois.gov](mailto:krysta.heaney@illinois.gov).**

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